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## **JAHA invites churches and non-profits to be a part of FolkFest**

***“Community Kitchen” to feature local non-profits and churches***

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is offering local churches and non-profits a chance to raise funds at the FolkFest’s “Community Kitchen.” Through this initiative, Johnstown-area non-profits will receive free booth space to vend food and drinks for all or part of the three-day festival.

JAHA compiled a list of more than 350 area non-profit organizations and churches, and sent out a letter with details about the offer on Friday, May 7. However, festival officials want to make sure all eligible organizations are aware of this opportunity.

“JAHA is a community-based organization, and FolkFest is a community event,” said Ron Carnevali, festival chairman and president of the JAHA board of directors. “We’ve sent information to as many churches and organizations as we could, but we want to be sure everyone knows about it – if anyone would like to know more, we encourage them to get in touch with us.”

All FolkFest vendors receive a 10’X10’ booth covered by an awning or tent, electrical service, 8’ of counter space, grease mats, access to hot water and WHAT ELSE. Booth space at the festival is sold to for-profit vendors for \$350.

JAHA has designed the Community Kitchen so that groups may take part for one, two or all three days of the festival, in hopes of attracting smaller groups that may not have the resources to produce food in sufficient quantities to vend all three days.

To take part in the Community Kitchen, interested non-profits and churches must:

- **Complete an application and return to JAHA by**
- **Vend food and drink only.** JAHA is looking for food and drink vendors only; the FolkFest does not accept vendors of any other type of product or service. Preference will be given to groups that plan to serve homemade food, which adds to the richness and variety of the festival.
- **Accept scrip only.** The FolkFest is free to festivalgoers; there is no admission charge. This means JAHA depends on sponsorships and commission from scrip in order to stage the festival each year. All vendors are required to accept scrip only, and JAHA will receive a 15% commission when you cash in.
- **Have liability insurance.** All groups participating in the festival must have \$1 million in liability insurance, which most organizations can obtain relatively easily; churches, school districts and parent organizations generally have insurance policies that include liability. Check with your organization's insurance provider for details.
- **Submit a \$250 refundable deposit to JAHA.** Once an organization's application is accepted, a \$250 deposit must be submitted to JAHA that will be refunded as soon as the festival is over. The purpose of the deposit is to make sure that all the space available in the Community Kitchen is taken by groups that will be there.

**In addition, all non-profit groups planning to take part in the Community Kitchen must comply with the city's health regulations concerning food. JAHA will send interested organizations all the materials needed to do so, and all materials must be submitted to the City by August 20, which is 10 business days in advance of the festival.**

- **One person in the booth must hold a health card.** These cards are very simple to obtain; one simply fills out the application, and a physician must sign it. A \$5 fee applies.
- **Compliance with city food safety regulations.** JAHA will send participating organizations the information needed to do so. The City also charges a \$50 fee.

An on-site inspection of each booth will be conducted at the FolkFest, and the Health Card and Health License will be issued at that time.

**Interested organizations that would like more information about the Community Kitchen or need an information packet should call Shelley Johansson at JAHA, 814-539-1889, ext. 308.**

The Johnstown FolkFest began in 1990 when the Johnstown Area Heritage Association persuaded the National Folk Festival to come to Johnstown. The National Folk Festival stayed for two additional years before moving on to another American city, at which point JAHA began to produce the event as the Johnstown FolkFest. The festival has since grown to attract more than 120,000 visitors annually.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown's unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. In addition to the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, JAHA produces the FolkFest, a 3-day free music and food festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; flood commemoration events; a spring lecture series; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. JAHA plans to open the Wagner-Ritter House and Garden in 2004, and a Children's Discovery Center will open in 2005.

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